

2. Trans-Pacific Contacts

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The writer was appointed to represent the Far-Eastern Prehistory Association at the 33rd International Congress of Americanists, held in San José, Costa Rica, July 20-27, 1958. The meeting was devoted primarily to Americanist problems, of course, but several important papers in the field of interest we are considering here were given. After their publication, which is expected soon in the *Proceedings* of the Congress, we will refer to them again in these pages. Two papers by Robert Heine-Geldern were entitled 'Representations of the Asiatic Tiger in the Art of the Chavin Culture; A Proof of Early Contacts between China and Peru', and 'Chinese Influence in Mexico and Central America'. Tayro Obayashi, a Japanese archæologist, who since the Congress has been doing archæological work in Peru, presented 'Divination from Entrails among the Ancient Inca and its Relations to Practices in Southeast Asia'. A paper by Chester Chard was entitled 'Old World Sources for Early Lithic Cultures'.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles

HEINE-GELDERN, Robert

- 1958 Un nouveau parallèle entre L'Amérique du Sud Précolombienne et l'Ancienne Asie sud-orientale. *Miscellanea Paul Rivet, Octogenario Dicata*, 2, 219-226. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.

Stone sarcophagi with protuberances extending from their sides and from their covers are shown to occur in Bali, Java, Formosa and Japan and to be closely similar in form to examples from San Agustín, Colombia. This is an interesting and perhaps significant parallel when we consider that some sarcophagi of other and simpler forms are not of common occurrence in the New World.

LOU, Dennis Wing-sou

- 1957 Rain Worship among the Ancient Chinese and the Nahua-Maya Indians. *Bulletin of the Institute of Ethnology*. Academia Sinica, Taiwan, 4, 31-102 and plates, with summary in Chinese.

In this excellent paper the mythology and religious practices of ancient China, as seen in the earliest written sources, are shown to have contained a complex of elements centred on rain worship that is in many ways similar to things in Meso-America. The dragon was a rain deity like the serpent gods of Mexico, with different ones associated with the four quarters and four seasons as well as with particular colours. Comparable beliefs concerning other minor deities and methods of worship and sacrifice are also discussed.

MÜLLER, Von Werner

- 1958 Stufenpyramiden in Mexiko und Kambodscha. Bemerkungen zu einer ethnologischen Formel. *Paideuma*, 6 (8), 473-489.

It is pointed out that the stepped pyramids of Mexico and Indochina have more in common than has been pointed out by Heine-Geldern and Ekholm. In both cases they seem to form the centre point in a quarterly division of the city. It is thought, however, that this results from an ancient diffusion of ideas rather than a more recent diffusion of an architectural form.

SCHUSTER, Carl

- 1958 Human Figures with Spiral Limbs in Tropical America. *Miscellanea Paul Rivet, Octogenario Dicata*, 2, 549-561. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico.

Although not concerned with trans-Pacific contacts in the manner of other papers listed here, this work is one of a number published by Schuster that details specific parallels on Old and New World motifs that probably indicate diffusion at an early period.